

# Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation

St. Louis Regional Newsletter

April 2010



## Missouri's Dinosaur Fish

By Sarah Kluesner, Fisheries Management Biologist

Did you know that some of the fish species in our state started out swimming in rivers where dinosaurs came to drink? It's true! Missouri is home to several ancient fish that are every bit as strange and fascinating as you might think.



**Sturgeon** – The first sturgeon fossils are from about 200 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The three sturgeon species in our state, lake, shovelnose, and pallid, all appeared about 100 million years ago and have since changed very little. They can be quite large fish – the lake sturgeon is known to reach 8 feet. They have a head shaped like a shovel and hard armor with sharp points over their back and sides. The young have a long whip-like tail.

**Gar** – These fish date back to the Permian Period, about 250 million years ago. There were lots of reptiles back then, and dinosaurs were just starting to evolve. Gar have special diamond shaped scales that form a hard, flexible covering. Their long snouts are filled with needle-sharp teeth. Alligator gar are the largest of Missouri's four species – they can weigh up to 300 pounds!



**Paddlefish** – Paddlefish date to the Carboniferous Period, 50 million years before the first dinosaurs. They are by far the most bizarre looking fish in Missouri. A paddle-shaped snout makes up about half their length. When feeding, they swim with their huge mouth gaping open as they filter plankton from the water. There is only one other species of paddlefish in the world – the Yangtze paddlefish in China. The Yangtze species may now be extinct; the last one seen was in 2003. Our rivers are home to what may be the last species of a 300 million year old fish family.



These fish have survived ice ages, mass extinctions, and untold changes to the earth. After hundreds of millions of years some of them are now in danger of extinction. Pallid sturgeon are federally endangered. Alligator gar, while still thriving in southern states, are rare in Missouri. Paddlefish numbers have also declined. Habitat destruction, dams, and overfishing are some of the threats to these species. To see photos and more information on these fish visit the Missouri Fish and Wildlife Information System at <http://mdc.mo.gov/nathis/mofwis/>.

## Wetlands for Kids!!!

**April 3 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area**

*Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

(All Ages) Learn about wetlands and the critters that call them home at Wetlands for Kids. Kids will see live birds of prey, explore a beaver lodge, practice their air rifle and archery skills, view live snakes and turtles, watch retriever dogs in action and more at 15 different stations. Each registered child receives a free Ducks Unlimited Greenwing membership and one-year subscription to the *Puddler* magazine. Food and beverages are available for purchase from the on-site concessionaire. (No reservations necessary.)



# Forest Park Office

April 2010

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m

**For reservations call (314) 877-1309 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Boulevard, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left onto Lindell. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first available right onto Grand Drive. The Visitors Center is the tan brick, red tile-roofed building with arched windows, and a clock tower. It will be on the right side of the street. Free parking is available in the double lot to the left or on the street.

## Sensational Animals Series

*First Tuesday of the Month (April - May) 10 a.m. - Noon*

(Ages 5 - 8) Welcome to the wonderful world of Missouri's wild animals! Throughout the last part of this series, we will explore animal senses. Without senses, animals would not be able to see, hear, feel, smell, or taste anything. Learn how animals use each sense and how these special senses help them to survive. Each program will be held the first Tuesday of the month through May from 10 a.m. - Noon. Participants may sign up individually or for both classes. Each class will include an interactive activity, game and/or take home craft. (Reservations begin March 16.)

## 6 We Get the Feeling: Animal Touch

*Tuesday 10 a.m. - Noon*

(Ages 5 - 8) Did you know that there are 100 touch receptors in each of our fingertips? We'll see how snakes, spiders, and fish (to name just a few) use their sense of touch to find food and escape predators. This program will be held both in and outdoors, so dress for the weather. Meet at the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor & Education Center in Forest Park to get in touch with all the fun! (Reservations begin March 16.)

### Upcoming:

**May 4 Mmmm Mmm Good: Animal Smell & Taste**

## April 22 is EARTH DAY

### 25 Pedal for the Planet

*Sunday 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*

(All Ages) Save the planet and use pedal power as your mode of transportation at this event that celebrates Earth Day.

Explore some of the natural ecosystems of Forest Park on your own or join the naturalist-led group tour at 9:30

a.m. St. John's Mercy Medical Center will offer

FREE helmet fittings and new helmets will

be available for \$10. Route map will be

provided at registration. SAG support

ends at Noon. After the bike ride enjoy

the Earth Day Festival in Forest Park.

Park in 'Twin Lots' adjacent to the

Dwight Davis Tennis Center and

ride your bike to the north entrance

of the History Museum. Look for us

set up by the fountain. Ride starts

at the Missouri History Museum;

Lindell & DeBaliviere, St. Louis,

MO 63110. Route is 6 miles, flat

with some hills. (No reservations

required.)

**In partnership with: The Confluence**

**Partnership, The Great Rivers**

**Greenway District, The Missouri**

**History Museum, Missouri Department**

**of Conservation, St. John's Mercy Medical**

**Center, and St. Louis Earth Day.**

### 25 St. Louis Earth Day Festival

*Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.*

(All Ages) Join the fun at this free Earth Day event in Forest Park. Pick up your free Ninebark or River Birch seedling

and learn how to plant your new Missouri native! You will

also get a chance make a Tree Cookie Necklace.

Look for us in the Nature, Natural Resources,

and Recreation Area. (No reservations

necessary.)



Visit [www.stlouisearthday.com](http://www.stlouisearthday.com) for more information.

# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 2 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/busch/)

## 1 Dyeing Eggs Naturally

Thursday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 to 12) Learn to dye eggs naturally using dye made from natural products found in your very own kitchen. Please bring six hardboiled eggs and wear older clothes that you won't mind getting messy. (Reservations begin March 18.)

amphibians looking for mates in their marsh habitat.

Please dress for the weather and bring a small flashlight.

(Reservations begin March 26.)

## 23 Painting the Birds

Friday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 and Up) Get a close up look at bird mounts to learn about their finer beauty. Then bring out your inner artist by choosing one bird to draw and paint. (Reservations begin April 9.)

## 24 Busch Bird Watching Tour

Saturday 8:30 a.m. - noon

(Adults and families ages 10 and up) Let's go bird watching! We will carpool to different birding habitats around the Busch Conservation Area and take short walks to look for a variety of birds. Please bring your own binoculars and bird field guide (some available to borrow). Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 9.)

## 3 Wetlands for Kids

Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about wetlands and the critters that call them home at Wetlands for Kids. Kids will see live birds of prey, explore a beaver lodge, practice their air rifle and archery skills, view live snakes and turtles, watch retriever dogs in action and more at 15 different stations. Each registered child receives a free Ducks Unlimited Greenwing membership and one-year subscription to the *Puddler* magazine. Food and beverages are available for purchase from the on-site concessionaire. (No reservations necessary.)

## Amphibian Night Hike

**10** - Adults - Saturday 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**17** - Families - Saturday 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Witness a "Marsh Concert" presented by the toads and frogs of Missouri at the Marias Temps Clair Conservation Area. We will hike 2 miles on gravel top levies to listen for (continued)

## 27 Wild Cat/Tame Cat

Tuesday 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 5) Did you know that Missouri has two kinds of wild cats? Wild cats are a lot like house cats but they're also different. Join us as we have fun exploring what's the same and what's different and make a cat mask to take home. (Reservations begin April 13.)

# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday - Sunday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**For reservations call (314) 877- 6014 Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

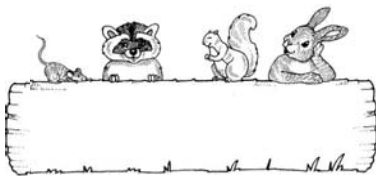
If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/)

## 17 Who Lives in a Rotten Log?

Saturday 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

(Families) Take a close-up look at the weird-looking critters that live in the dark recesses of a rotten log. Discover the important role they play in the life cycle of a tree and find out how they benefit the whole forest. We will investigate how they help to recycle a tree and find out where they go after they eat themselves out of house and home - literally! (Reservations begin April 3.)



## 24 Victoria Glades Wildflower Hike

Saturday 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Adults & Families) Discover the unique habitat of a glade bursting into Spring as we hike through Victoria Glades near Hillsboro. We'll explore why glades are little "desert islands" set amidst Missouri's lush hardwood forests, and how that influences what does and doesn't grow in a glade. Glades are rocky, so wear sturdy shoes, and a hiking pole is always useful. No strollers please. Bring along wildflower or bird guides as well as your camera. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 10.)



# Rockwoods Reservation

April 2010

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/)

### 9 Goodness Snakes Alive!

Friday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 4 – 6) Are snakes really slimy? How do they move, smell, hear and catch their food? Learn lots of other neat snake stuff in this program. You'll observe live snakes found in Missouri and even touch some if you want to. Come prepared for a short hike to observe snakes as we look for them in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin March 26.)

### 10 Snakes and Lizards – Awesome or What?

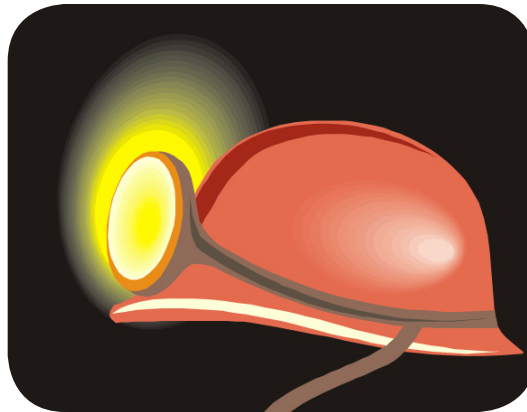
Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 7 – 12) How many “poisonous” snakes are there in Missouri? Can a lizard grow a new tail? Come find out the answers to those questions while learning about the snakes and lizards of Missouri. You will observe live snakes and even touch some if you want. Come prepared for a short hike to observe snakes and lizards in their natural habitat. (Reservations begin March 26.)

### 14 Rockwoods Cave Restoration Service Project

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

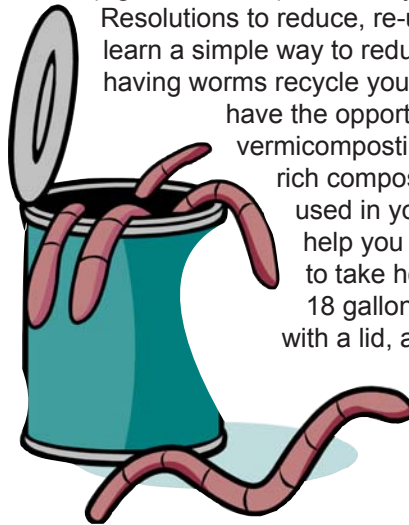
(Ages 10 and Up) Play your part in protecting Missouri's natural resources by venturing into the Rockwoods Cave to turn back the clock on years of improper cave use. The bats, salamanders, insects and spiders need your help in removing trash and graffiti from their home. We'll begin by learning about the unique cave habitat and the wildlife that use it. We'll then go into the cave to get nice and dirty while we clean. We'll supply the brushes and trash bags if you supply the muscle. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, close toed shoes and work gloves. Please also bring a flashlight, lunch and water bottle. Caving helmets will be provided. (Reservations begin March 31.)



### 13 A Worm Ate My Garbage!

Tuesday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 8 to adult) Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to reduce, re-use, or recycle? Come learn a simple way to reduce your scraps by having worms recycle your leftovers. You'll have the opportunity to see a working vermicomposting bin, and the nutrient rich compost created that can be used in your garden. We will also help you make a bin of your own to take home! Just bring a 10 – 18 gallon plastic tub (not clear) with a lid, at least 11 inches deep and an old newspaper. (Reservations begin March 30.)



### 22 Cave Exploration

Thursday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up) Enter the underground world of Rockwoods cave! Learn about a cave ecosystem and the importance wildlife plays in it. This hands-on exploration requires crawling on your stomach for several feet. Wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. Groups may NOT register for this program. (Reservations begin April 8.)

### 28 Earth Day Celebration

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7 and up) Join us in celebrating Earth Day as we learn interesting ways we can conserve our natural resources. We'll test your knowledge as we play recycle jeopardy and try our hand at making terrariums. Please bring a 2 liter bottle, all other materials will be provided. (Reservations begin April 14)



# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

April 2010

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

Hours are: December 1 - March 31 open Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

April 1 - November 30 open Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed all State and Federal Holidays.

**For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch/>

## 14 & 15 Basic Handgun

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 14 & up) This program is designed to teach how to safely and successfully handle and shoot a handgun. We



will teach about various actions and calibers along with grip, stance, sight picture, and safety. You may bring your own gun or we will supply one for you. Participants 14 - 17 need to be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin March 12.)



## 14 Discover Hunting – Shotgun Patterning

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 14 & up) Does your shotgun really shoot where you aim? This class will help you determine the point of impact for your gun. We will shoot lead and steel shot, different chokes, shot size, and different brands. You will need to furnish your own gun and ammo. (Reservations begin March 12.)



## 17 Discover Hunting – Bird Dogs

Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 11 & up) What should you look for when buying a bird dog? What breed of dog is right for you and the sport you are planning on using it in? When do you start training it and what types of training are necessary for your dog to perform well in the field? Join us for this class with a professional bird dog trainer to have your questions answered. (Reservations begin March 15.)



## 21, 22, & 28 Basic Skeet

Wednesday & Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

(Ages 13 & up) Join us to learn about the exciting sport of Skeet shooting. We will cover the rules, tips, and techniques. This is not a basic shotgun program, you should already know how to safely handle and shoot a shotgun. The first evening of the program will start in the classroom, the second evening will continue at the Busch Shooting Range for some hands-on experience with our instructors. On the actual shooting portion of the event, half the class will shoot on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the other half on the 28<sup>th</sup>. This will allow for more quality time on the skeet field. Participants 13 - 17 need to be accompanied by an adult. You may bring your own shotgun or we will have some available. (Reservations begin March 22.)



For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at [www.mdc.mo.gov/area/stlouis](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/area/stlouis) and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.

# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

April 2010

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049

Range Hours: May 1 - August 31: Wednesday 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

September 1 - April 30: Wednesday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and all State and Federal Holidays.

**For reservations call (636) 938-9548 Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From the east/St. Louis: I-44 west to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire road. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway. From the west/Eureka: I-44 east to Beaumont/Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

Visit <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges/>

## 8 Discover Nature - Families: Basic Archery

Thursday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

(Families) Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the *Missouri National MDC Archery in the School Program (MoNASP)*. We'll cover the eleven steps to archery success. This is a fun program for the whole family. Hands-on portion of the class is appropriate for ages 8 and up. All equipment will be provided. *Discover Nature - Families* programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together. Class is limited to 20. (Reservations begin March 8.)

MDC  
**DISCOVER  
nature**  
FAMILIES



## 15 Discover Hunting: Calling Wild Turkeys

Thursday 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Families) Are you interested in communicating with a wild turkey gobbler this spring? If so, this class will help you understand what you are saying. We will explore the different types of calls to use, how to make and perform the calls, and what they actually mean. This class will cover basic techniques as well as advance tips on using calls to hunt turkeys. The instructor is a competitive turkey caller and has over 10 years of experience calling turkeys and turkey hunting. *Discover Hunting* programs are designed to help youth and adults experience the rich traditions of hunting through shooting skills classes and hunting clinics. (Reservations begin March 15.)

MDC  
**DISCOVER  
Hunting**



## 17 Map, Compass, and GPS

Saturday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) This is an introductory program for anyone interested in outdoor direction finding, whether hunting, hiking, backpacking, or any outdoor activities off the beaten path. We will learn how to use a topographical map, the proper use of a navigation style compass, and also an introduction to the Global Positioning System (GPS). Dress for the weather, we'll be outside for part of this program. Technical information is inappropriate for ages under 12. Class is limited to 24. (Reservations begin March 17.)



**NOTICE:** The rifle/pistol range is currently closed and under construction. All other ranges are still open. We expect to reopen the rifle/pistol range by September 1, 2010. Progress reports will be included over the next several months including a reopen date.

If you would like more information please visit our website at [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges/) or call the range office at 636-938-9548.

For a complete listing of all Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education classes throughout the region, visit the web at [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov) and click on the "Hunter Education" link on the left of the page.



# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are Tuesday-Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

### NEW HOURS

### AS OF MARCH 1, 2010

New **building** hours are:

Tuesday through Saturday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday and Monday: Closed

The **area and trails** will be open seven days a week 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. during Central Standard Time and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time.

Watch our newsletter for occasional announcements regarding special evening and weekend visiting hours.

Thank you for your support as we try to adapt to the changes and challenges that face our agency. The PVCNC staff and volunteers are dedicated to continuing to provide the best possible service with the resources available.

### 3 Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees

*Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

(Families) Discover the wonders of Missouri forests while working on badge activities. Designed for Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts, and Webelos. **Brownies** can work on What's Out There?: Plants 2 and 4. **Juniors** can work on Let's Get Outdoors: Earth Connections 3, 4, and 8, and Explore and Discover: Science Discovery 5. **Webelos** can complete Outdoor Group: Forester 3 and 4. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (No reservations required.)



### 10 Discover Nature - Families: Turtle Troubles

*Saturday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*

(Ages 7 - 12) It's a stump! It's a rock!

No, it's a turtle crossing the road!

Besides cars, turtles face many other hurdles throughout their lives. Learn all about these ancient shelled reptiles and their troubles as we take a close look at live animals, play a game, and learn how to help turtles and other backyard wildlife. (Reservations begin March 26.)



### 19 Homeschool: Keep Your Eye on the Pond!

*Monday 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

(Ages 7 - 12) It's spring! Changes are happening everywhere we look, especially in our ponds! Meet in the education building at Jay Henges Range, just off of highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road for a study on pond ecology. The address is 1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049. We will learn aquatic collection techniques, investigate live organisms, and view macro-invertebrates. Then pull up your boot straps as we head down to the pond to collect and identify specimens. (Reservations begin April 6.)



### 20 Signs of Spring!

*Tuesday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

(Ages 3 - 6) Are you tired of the cold weather and short days that winter brings? Do you miss the songbirds, wildflowers, and sunny evenings of our warmer months? If so, join us as we celebrate the changing of the season! We will explore the grounds of Powder Valley looking for signs of spring! Much of our time will be spent outside, so please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 6.)

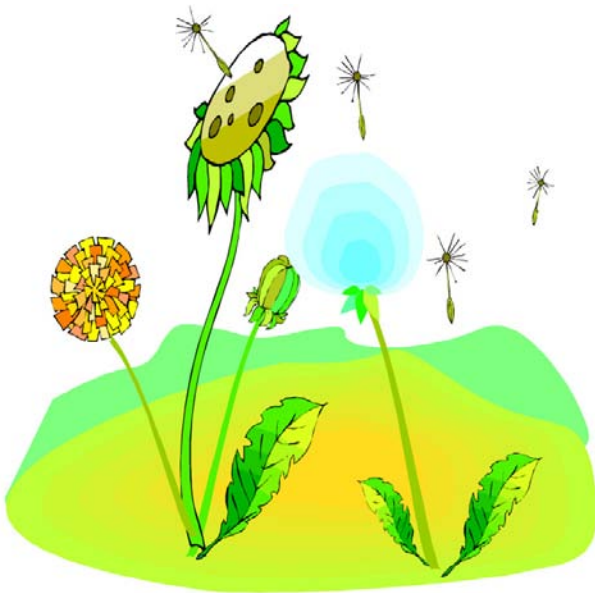
**For reservations call (314) 301-1500**

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east to Kirkwood, take S. Kirkwood Road (Route 61/67). Follow Route 61/67 to Watson Road. Go west on Watson Road to Geyer Road. Go north on Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/)

## 21 It's a Seed's Life

Wednesday 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 - 12) If you were a seed, how would you travel away from the parent plant? How would you know how long to sleep and when to wake up? When you sprouted, how would your roots know to grow downward and your stem know to grow upward? Would you make one first little leaf or two of them? Join us as we explore these and other aspects of a seed's life. Make a seedling experiment to take home. (Reservations begin April 7.)



## Extended!

### LaBarque Creek Watershed Photo Display

Photographer Mark Karpinski's dramatic photos of Missouri's own LaBarque Creek Watershed will remain on display through April 2010. Mark has seen many of this country's natural wonders and ranks LaBarque Creek Watershed near the top. Don't miss this opportunity to see Mark's dramatic exhibit.

### Nature Shop Special



You'll love the revised, sixth edition of *Missouri Wildflowers*. A stunning new cover, an enlarged format, new design, and improved photographs. Colored tabs also have been added to the page edges for easier location of flower color groups. As always, the pictures are arranged by flower color and blooming time.

## 23 Amphibian Night at Forest 44

Friday 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

(All ages) Join us as MDC Herpetologist Jeff Briggler teaches about native amphibians and takes us on an exploratory hike. Learn how to identify different species and calls before venturing out to the ponds of Forest 44 in search of chorusing frogs. Meet at Jay Henges Shooting Range Education Center, located at Highway 44 and Beaumont/Antire Road. Please dress for the weather and wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and muddy. (Reservations begin April 2.)



## WATCH !

### for Powder Valley Conservation Day Camp registration

**Camp will be Tuesday, June 15 – Friday, June 18**

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Ages 8 through 13**

This year registration will be done by a lottery system. Please see the May Conservation Connections newsletter for application deadline information.